



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley-on-Thames

JANUARY 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BRIEFING

Volume 31

The Executive Committee send New Years greetings to all Members with a wish that you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

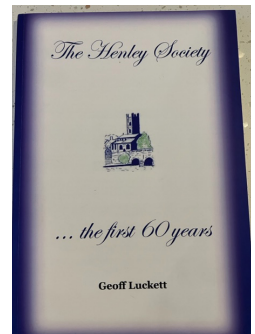
Review of 2022

2022 was a busy year for the Society and one of considerable progress.

JANUARY saw the results of our member survey on the Bridge Lights in which 82% of respondents were in favour. We also published the Society's history 'The Henley Society-the first 60 years'.



FEBRUARY saw the unveiling of a re-instated sign at Peartree Cottages in Rotherfield Greys which we carried out on behalf of The Henley Housing Trust



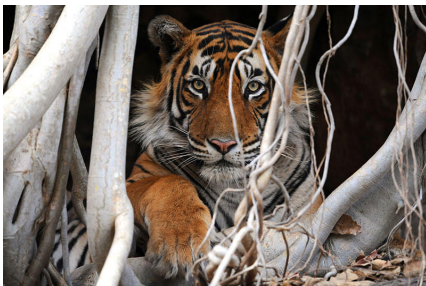
In MARCH 120 members enjoyed an informative and entertaining talk by the Queen's Swan Marker, David Barber.



APRIL -
The Henley Society AGM was attended by 45 Members who, at the close of business were informed of the current status, and importance of the Joint Henley Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan by Cllr. Ken Arlett.

MARCH was also the month we presented a lime tree to Henley Town Council to be planted in Freemans Meadow.

Later in APRIL over 100 Members were entertained by Simon Clinton's talk entitled 'Save Wild Tigers' and enjoyed a coach trip to RMA Sandhurst for the Commandants Parade. The Raymond Youle plaque was unveiled at the Gravel Hill amenity area in the presence of the Henley Press.





HENLEY SOCIETY MEMBERS AT THE
SANDHURST MILITARY ACADEMY VISIT

In MAY, we updated the Planning page of our website with useful tips on how members could comment on Planning Applications.

In June we celebrated the planting of eight trees at Sheephouse Lane/Reading Road all generously sponsored by our members in memory of loved ones,



Pictured left and above members of the Society Committee together with our generous member sponsors.

In JULY our membership level passed 600 for the first time in our history when Jenna Shanks (pictured right) enrolled.

In mid- month The Society took a stand at the 3-day Thames Traditional Boat Fair for the first time, again enrolling a number of new members.



AUGUST

Our signature event at Remenham Club, Music on the Lawn, was enjoyed in glorious weather by some 200 members and guests in August. We were honoured to have the presence of the Mayor of Henley, Cllr Michelle Thomas who officially opened the proceedings. Pictures below show the Society Committee, Barry Owen and the Main Attraction together with our members enjoying the afternoon.

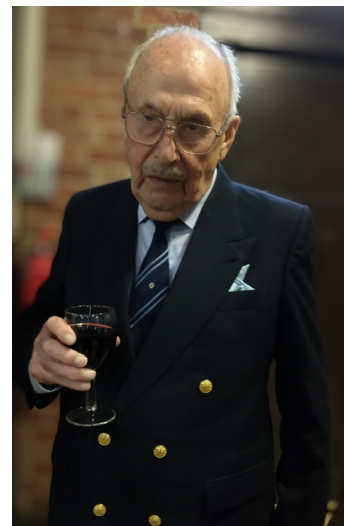


In SEPTEMBER almost 100 members enjoyed a trip to the Fawley Hill Steam Day and Railway Museum courtesy of Lady Judy McAlpine. Some members enjoyed afternoon tea in the onsite cafe and train rides around the grounds.

The Society took a stand at the Henley Farm show at which 7 new members were enrolled.



In OCTOBER we sent a letter of condolence, on behalf of all members, to King George III on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. A gracious reply was received from the King.



Later in NOVEMBER members heard an enjoyable talk by long-time resident Peter Hancock (pictured right) who spoke to his wonderful full colour VE/VJ Day and 1946 Royal Regatta films.

In NOVEMBER Julian Brookes, our deputy Chairman, laid a wreath in memory of the fallen of two World Wars, at the Remembrance Service at the Town Hall.



December saw our birthday celebration breakfast held in the Catherine Wheel Hotel on the exact 60th anniversary of the founding of the Society. Again, we were honoured by the presence of the Mayor, Cllr. Michelle Thomas, who unveiled a commemorative blue plaque, sponsored by The Society noting our long association with the hotel.

Breakfast was a sell out!



Whilst all this was going on the Society Committee was busily engaged during the year in attempting to get the Friday Street Slipway re-opened, completing the Phillimore Fountain restoration, promoting the removal of Graffiti, assisting with the review of the Joint Henley Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan, (this is now a "made" Plan) and lobbying regarding the (un)cleanliness of our town centre roads and pavements, pursuing the Solar Compactor bin trial and reviewing and commenting on almost 300 planning applications.

During the year the following comprised the Executive Committee:
Valerie Alasia, Julian Brookes, Veronica Carlton, Dr. Jeny Copeland, Karen Grieve, Geoff Lockett, Sandra Moon, Catherine Notaras, Nora Scanlon and David Whitehead



The Executive Committee is grateful for the excellent support shown at all of our events, talks and visits by our members - thank you to you all.